

JUL 26 2007

Appl. No. 10/675,050
Amdt. Dated July 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 26, 2007

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-8 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 3-8 are subject to examination. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled.

In item 3 on pages 4 and 5 of the above-identified Office Action, claim 1 has been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. patent No. 5,373,205 to Busick et al. (hereinafter Busick) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claim 1 has been amended with the features of claim 2, therefore the rejection is now believed to be mute.

In item 2 on pages 3 and 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 4 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Applicant respectfully disagrees for the now stated reasons. Claim 1 recites:

limiting a load current to a first maximum value in the normal mode and to a second maximum value, being

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lower than the first maximum value and being greater than zero, in the fault mode (emphasis added).

As shown in Fig. 3B of the instant application, operation in the normal mode is allowed until a first maximum value IS1 of the load current is reached. Upon triggering the first maximum value of the load current, operation is switched over to a fault mode. In the fault mode, operation is halted once a second maximum value IS2 of the load current is reached. Upon exceeding the second maximum value IS2, the switch is turned off. It is noted at this point that the second maximum value IS2 resides above zero as shown in Fig. 3B.

Turning now to AAPA, as best shown in Fig. 2B of the specification of the instant application, the Examiner interestingly states that the first maximum value is read on by Ids1 and that the second maximum value is read on by zero current. As noted by the Examiner, zero current is certainly less than Ids1.

In view of this statement claim 1 of the instant application has been amended to state that the second maximum current is greater than zero. Support for this change is shown in Fig. 3B where IS2 is clearly greater

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than zero. In addition, on page 14, lines 4-15 of the specification, it is discussed that less power is converted into heat at the second maximum current and therefore some current inherently must exist (e.g. there is no power at zero current).

In summary, AAPR does not teach using two different maximum load currents, both above zero current, for normal mode operation and fault mode operation.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103" on pages 5 and 6 of the above-identified Office Action, claim 5 has been rejected as being obvious over U.S. patent No. 6,052,268 to Thomas under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable, therefore claim 5 is also believed to be allowable.

It is appreciatively acknowledged that claim 3 is allowable as stated in item 4 of the Office Action. Claim 3 has been put in independent form.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination,

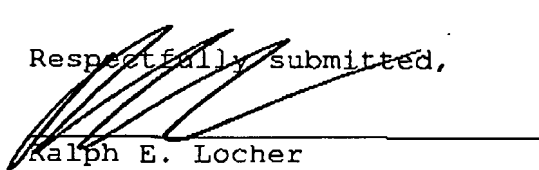
Appl. No. 10/675,050
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either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-5 are solicited. Claims 6-8 are allowed.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Sterner LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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